

Message Text

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FOR MR. GEISE - PLEASE PASS DEP. ASST. SECRETARY DALLEY

FOL RPT PORT AU PRINCE 3136 SENT ACTION USIA WASHDC INFO SECSTATE &
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QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 3136

E. O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC REACTION OF YOUNG VISIT

REF: (A) PORT AU PRINCE 3020, (B) PORT AU PRINCE 3032
(C) PORT AU PRINCE 2885, (D) PORT AU PRINCE 2407,
(E) PORT AU PRINCE 3091, (F) PORT AU PRINCE 3089

SUMMARY: IN THE WAKE OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S AUGUST 14-15
VISIT TO HAITI, THE LOCAL MEDIA HAD A FEILD DAY, DESPITE
THE EFFORTS OF OFFICIAL MEDIA AND SOME SYCOPHANTIC JOURNALISTS
TO DOWNPLAY THE VISIT OR INTERPRET IT IN A FASION SYMPATHETIC
TO THE GOH. DAMPENING EFFORTS OF GOH WERE MINOR, HOWEVER,
WERE RECOGNIZED FOR WHAT THEY WERE BY THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY
OF HAITIANS AND YOUNG'S MESSAGE CAME THROUGH UNINTERRUPTEDLY
LOUD AND CLEAR THROUGH VIRTUALLY ALL THE MEDIA AND BY WORD OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 202359

MOUTH. END SUMMARY.

1. ALTHOUGH THE POST ANTICIPATED AN ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE TO
THE VISIT, THE INTEREST IT ATTRACTED AND THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC
REACTIONS SURPASSED EXPECTATIONS. YOUNG HAD BEEN ON EVERY-
ONE'S MINDS SINCE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TRIP IN LATE JUNE.
GOH INDECISION ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS
ASPECTS OF MISSION BECAME EVIDENT AUGUST 11 WHEN INFORMATION
MINISTER PIERRE GOUSSE QUIETLY ASSEMBLED REPORTERS AND
EDITORS AND URGED THEM TO BE ON THEIR BEST BEHAVIOR, TO

AVOID QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT EMBARRASS THE GOH, AND RATHER TO ASK QUESTIONS THAT WOULD PUT THE GOH IN A MORE FAVORABLE LIGHT.

2. AS IF TO DEMONSTRATE HAITI'S STATUS WITH REGARD TO PRESS FREEDOM, GOUSSE ALSO ASKED THAT RADIO AND TELEVISION COVERAGE OF YOUNG'S PRESS CONFERENCE BE CARRIED LIVE. TO FURTHER SHOW THE LIBERAL GOH ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PRESS, GOUSSE HAD INFORMATION KITS PREPARED FOR THE YOUNG DELEGATION WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS INCLUDED THE JULY 4 PETIT SAMEDI SOIR INTERVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT (PORT AU PRINCE 2407). THE CONVOKING OF THE PRESS PROBABLY ACCOUNTED FOR THE FACT THAT REPORTERS WERE SOMEWHAT SUBDUED, ALMOST TIMID, AT A USIS PRESS CONFERENCE THE NEXT MORNING TO PROVIDE DETAILS ON THE YOUNG MISSION. PRE-ARRIVAL COVERAGE WAS LIMITED TO USIS-SUPPLIED INFORMATION AND SOME SKETCHY WIRE SERVICE REPORTS. ONLY OUTSPOKEN WEEKLY JEUNE PRESSE, VENTURED AN EDITORIAL BEFORE THE VISIT (PORT AU PRINCE 2885), ASKING RHETORICALLY, "WHAT IS ANDREW YOUNG GOING TO TELL US?" (PORT AU PRINCE 2885.)

THE MEDIA TURNED OUT IN FORCE FOR THE PRESS CONFERENCE WITH YOUNG THAT THEY HAD LONG AWAITED. NOT ONLY WAS YOUNG'S OPENING STATEMENT AND 30 MINUTES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 03 STATE 202359

BROADCAST AND TELEVISED LIVE, BUT SEVERAL RADIO STATIONS RE-BROADCAST IT TWO AND THREE MORE TIMES THE SAME DAY. AND TELE-HAITI CARRIED IT AGAIN THAT EVENING AND THE FOLLOWING DAY. THE NEWSPAPERS WERE SOMEWHAT SLOWER TO RESPOND, BUT DID MANAGE TO PRINT THE FOLLOWING DAY THE USIS-PREPARED TRANSCRIPT OF YOUNG'S OPENING STATEMENT, AND TWO DAYS LATER THE USIS-PROVIDED TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. ALTHOUGH ALL RADIO STATIONS HAD ALREADY COVERED THE PRESS CONFERENCE IN EXTENSO, LEADING RADIO METROPOLE, JOINED BY RADIO HAITI-INTER AND RADIO LUMIERE, WERE STILL READING THE USIS RELEASES TWO DAYS AFTER YOUNG'S DEPARTURE. COVERAGE WAS ALSO GIVEN TO YOUNG'S VISIT TO AND REMARKS BY AGRICULTURE MINISTER BERROUET AT THE BONGNOTTE COOPERATIVE FARM PROJECTS; MRS. YOUNG'S TOUR OF CULTURAL AND HEALTH CENTERS, THE SUNDAY EVENING RECEPTION; AND, OF COURSE, THE DEPARTURE AND YOUNG'S FINAL STATEMENT.

4. MEDIA AND PUBLIC REACTIONS WERE OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORABLE INTELLECTUAL WEEKLY LE PETIT DAMEDI SOIR SAID: " ANDREW YOUNG'S DECLARATIONS SUCCEED ON THEIR OWN, WHILE DEAR HENRY'S LITTLE STEPS WERE UNABLE TO BE REALIZED." INFLUENTIAL DAILY "PANORAMA" OBSERVED: "YOUNG REAFFIRMED THE MAIN CURRENTS OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY: THE VALUE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ATTACHES TO THE PURSUIT OF FREEDOM, THE ROLE OF MORALITY IN THE DEFINITION OF ANY POLICY, AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY AND

THE INTANGIBILITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS." JEUNE PRESSE STATED:
"RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS NOT YET SOMETHING DEFINITELY
ATTAINED IN HAITI. FOR ONE CANNOT DISCARD OVERNIGHT THE
HABITS AND MANIFESTATIONS OF POWER AND OF DOMINATION WHICH
WERE ACQUIRED OVER A LONG PERIOD. THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN
GOVERNORS AND THE GOVERNED, THE RESPECT FOR LAW BY EACH OF
THESE, AND THIS WILL TO SUBORDINATE THE WELFARE OF ALL TO
THE RESPECT OF EACH INDIVIDUAL ARE A CONTINUOUS TASK TO
WHICH WE SHOULD ALL CONTRIBUTE DAILY IN ORDER TO ASSUME
FULLY OUR POSITION OF RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS." OTHER MEDIA
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PAGE 04 STATE 202359

ECHOED THE ABOVE. THANKS TO THE UNPRECEDENTED COVERAGE,
THE PUBLIC WAS TALKING ABOUT NOTHING MORE THAN THE YOUNG
MESSAGE. (USIS USED THE PRE-ARRIVAL PRESS CONFERENCE TO
DISTRIBUTE COPIES OF YOUNG'S APRIL 19 U.N. SPEECH ON HUNGER,
TORTURE AND RACISM. AT LEAST THREE NEWSPAPERS AND TWO RADIO
STATIONS REFERRED TO OR QUOTED FROM IT IN THEIR COVERAGE.)

5. IN THE FACE OF WHAT SOME HAVE DESCRIBED AS A "MEDIA
BLITZ," THE GOH ATTEMPT TO DOWNPLAY THE MESSAGE IN OFFICIAL MEDIA
AND SEEK IN IT SOME COMPATIBILITY WITH DUVALIERIST PHILOSOPHY WAS
A DISMAL FAILURE. A POSSIBLY GOH-INSTIGATED CRITIQUE OF
THE PRESS CONFERENCE MAINTAINED THAT IT WAS CAREFULLY
PLANNED TO ALLOW YOUNG TO MAKE HIS STATEMENT BUT AVOID QUESTIONING
(PORT AU PRINCE 3032).

OFFICIAL DAILY LE NOUVEAU MONDE AUGUST 16 TRIED TO DEMONSTRATE
"COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN THE IDEALS OF THE DUVALIER REVOLUTION
AND THOSE OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND MR. YOUNG" (PORT AU PRINCE
3020). THE NOUVEAU MONDE AND OFFICIAL RADIO NATIONALE
CEASED THEIR YOUNG COVERAGE ON AUGUST 16. DUMAYRIC CHARLIER
SYCOPHANTIC CO-EDITOR OF PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY "LE MATIN,"
ENTITLED HIS "ANALYSIS" JOYOUS STATE OF HAITIAN-AMERICAN
FRIENDSHIP: HAITI'S PRESIDENT FOR LIFE, 3 MINISTERS AND
AMBASSADOR YOUNG PLEASED WITH THEIR TALKS AND EXCHANGES
OF VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS.". CHARLIER RESORTED TO PURE
INVENTION -- MOST CERTAINLY AT THE BEHEST OF THE GOH -- TO
RECOUNT ALLEGED PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN YOUNG AND THE
PRESIDENT.

6. REFERRING TO THE LIST OF 21 PRISONERS YOUNG PRESENTED
TO INTERIOR MINISTER JEANTY, LE MATIN OBSERVED THAT THE
MINISTER "WAS SURPRISED TO FIND NAMES OF COMMON CRIMINALS,
MURDERERS AND INTELLECTUALS RECENTLY APPREHENDED FOR CORRUP-
TING PUBLIC OFFICIALS." MR. YOUNG, SAID THE DAILY, "WAS
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PAGE 05 STATE 202359

SURPRISED TO BE THUS INFORMED ABOUT A LIST HE CARRIED IN

HIS POCKET." SIMILAR FLIGHTS OF IMAGINATION CHARACTERIZED THE YOUNG-DUVALIER MEETING: "YOUNG WAS GREATLY INTERESTED IN THE EXPOSITION OF PRESIDENT DUVALIER ON TWO PROBLEMS: HUMAN RIGHTS AND AID TO HAITI, HE WAS ALSO IMPRESSED BY THE CAPTIVATING PERSONALITY OF OUR LEADER FOR LIFE. HE CONGRATULATED THE PRESIDENT FOR THE ACCOUNTS JUST PROVIDED HIM ... BY MINISTERS JEANTY AND FIEVRE. PRESIDENT DUVALIER EXPRESSED HIS AGREEMENT WITH AND APPROVAL FOR THE CAMPAIGN PRESENTLY LED BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN FAVOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS." YOUNG "EFFUSIVELY THANKED" THE PRESIDENT FOR ASSURING HIM THAT THE GOH WOULD WELCOME THE IAHC. YOUNG TOOK LEAVE SAYING: " MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER YOU, BUT I PROMISE TO THINK OF YOU IN MY PRAYERS, FOR I AM A PASTOR.

7. ACCUSTOMED TO LE MATIN'S SYCOPHANTIC EXCESS, MOST READERS DISMISSED THAT ACCOUNT IN FAVOR OF OTHER VOLUMINOUS AND ACCURATE REPORTING OF WHAT YOUNG ACTUALLY SAID. FACED WITH WIDESPREAD DISAGREEMENT WITH ITS COVERAGE LE MATIN APPEARS TO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MAKE UP FOR ITS BAD PERFORMANCE BY PUBLISHING SEVERAL POSITIVELY ORIENTED STORIES IN SUCCESSIVE ISSUES, AMONG THEM THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE; AN AFP DISPATCH ON THE AUGUST 22-26 HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE IN MANILA; THE USIS-PROVIDED ARTICLE ON YOUNG'S AUGUST 5 URBAN LEAGUE ADDRESS; AND AN AID-RELATED EDITORIAL, ALL ON THE FRONT PAGE. LATER IN THE WEEK, STILL MORE POSITIVE REACTION APPEARED IN ANOTHER JEUNE PRESSE EDITORIAL (PORT AU PRINCE 3089), IN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE AND FAVORABLE EDITORIAL COMMENT IN BOLD WEEKLY LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR, AND IN WEEKLY MAGAZINE "PORT-POURRI."

8. THE OVERALL IMPRESSION IS THAT OF A TREMENDOUS GROUNDSWELL OF SUPPORT FOR THE POLICIES ENUNCIATED BY MR. YOUNG AND OF RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR YOUNG HIMSELF. NOTWITHSTANDING GOH EFFORTS TO GIVE SELF-SERVING TWIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 06 STATE 202359

TO COVERAGE, EVERYONE -- ANYONE WITH A RADIO, NOT TO MENTION NEWSPAPERS AND TELEVISION -- FELT THE IMPACT OF YOUNG AND HIS MESSAGE. GREATLY EMBOLDENED BY THE PROTECTION AFFORDED THEM BY U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES AND UNRESTRICTED BY GOH, THE NON-OFFICIAL MEDIA MADE ANDREW YOUNG'S PUBLIC MESSAGE AS SIGNIFICANT AS THAT HE COMMUNICATED PRIVATELY. PUBLIC OPINION COUPLED WITH PRIVATE APPROACHES WILL, IN THE LONG RUN, PLAY AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENCOURAGING A POSITIVE GOH REACTION TO THE U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS MESSAGE.

9. GOH ATTEMPTS TO PROJECT AN IDENTITY BETWEEN CARTER AND DUVALIER ADMINISTRATION VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHT MAY APPEAR AMUSING AT FIRST GLANCE, BUT THEY ALSO ARE EXPRESSIVE

OF A BASICALLY CONSTRUCTIVE DESIRE TO KEEP IN STEP. FURTHERMORE, THEY PLACE THE BURDEN OF PROOF THAT POSITIVE CHANGE IS TAKING PLACE AND WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE PLACE SQUARELY ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE GOVERNMENT.
GOMEZ UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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